

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Implementation Evaluation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current evaluation describes the implementation of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court. To this end, data were collected on court operations and participants, and were examined to determine how effectively the 16 Strategies (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2003), a set of standards defining effective Juvenile Drug Court operations, were implemented by this court. Process evaluation methods included interviews with Drug Court team members, participant observation, a focus group, and a review of program documentation. The conclusion of this report is that programming at the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court adheres to the 16 Strategies, specifically:

Strategy #1. Collaborative Planning – Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated and systemic approach to working with youth and their families.

Findings from staff/team interviews and from participant observation showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team members have formed a cohesive unit that involved community-based stakeholders during the planning and implementation stages of the Drug Court process. The Drug Court planning team includes representatives from various local agencies who work together to develop policies and procedures regarding Drug Court operations. The planning team and the policies that are written ensure program collaboration, participant accountability, and effective program evaluation.

Strategy #2. Teamwork – Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, non-adversarial work team.

Findings from a focus group held with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team from participant observation of court sessions and staffings showed that members of this team work efficiently together and collaborate when making decisions about participants. Observations made and interviews conducted by University of Kentucky researchers indicated that prosecutors, defense attorneys, and treatment professionals on the team communicate well with one another, thereby, maximizing the efficacy of the program. The opinions of all team members are equally respected, thus ensuring collaboration around the program goals of promoting public safety and recovery from drug abuse and for the protection of each participant's rights.

Strategy #3. Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria – Define a target population and eligibility criteria that are aligned with the program's goals and objectives.

Findings from the focus group and from staff/team interviews showed that the target population and eligibility criteria established by the Drug Court team are appropriate and well defined. Team members have utilized data regarding various aspects of the community as well as assessed local resources in order to correctly identify juveniles who might benefit from the program. Eligibility criteria which focus on including drug-involved youth from ages 15-17 and excluding those with a violent offense history, have been established and incorporated into a written set of guidelines so that each potential participant may be effectively screened and assessed using the Drug Court Adolescent Intake Assessment. In this way, the Drug Court team is able to consistently target and screen possible candidates and in turn monitor the ever-changing needs of the participants, the Drug Court process, and community stakeholders.

Strategy #4. Judicial Involvement and Supervision – Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.

Findings from participant observation of drug court sessions and subsequent interviews with the drug court judge showed a high level of judicial involvement. During court sessions, the Judge relates well to participants and takes an obvious interest in their lives. Between court sessions, the Judge stays in contact with staff and team members to remain updated on participants' progress. The judge facilitates a well-balanced atmosphere of legal supervision and personal relationships with the participants.

Strategy #5. Monitoring and Evaluation – Establish a system for program monitoring and evaluation to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.

Findings from staff/team interviews, review of program records, and from the focus group indicated that the Christian County Juvenile Drug court team effectively monitors and evaluates the program. The Drug Court team worked well to provide the information needed by researchers at the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research at the University of Kentucky to perform an independent, external evaluation.

Strategy #6. Community Partnerships – Build partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.

Findings from the staff/team interviews and from the focus group showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has forged partnerships with the community in order to offer as many support services as possible. Recreational opportunities, educational programs, and community service work are integrated to provide a comprehensive range of activities for all participants. The team has successfully enlisted support from various community resources such as the Animal Shelter, the school system, and Pride, Inc.

Strategy #7. Comprehensive Treatment Planning – Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.

Findings from the participant observation, focus group, and staff interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has met the diverse needs of participants and their families. By using tools such as the Adolescent Intake Assessment and the Individualized Program Plan (IPP), staff members are able to address the special needs of each participant and their family. Each participant's IPP is reviewed several times throughout the course of the program and plans are modified when necessary to best meet the needs of the participant. The effectiveness of the program is increased by this individualized approach.

Strategy #8. Developmentally Appropriate Services – Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of adolescents.

Findings from the focus group, staff interviews, and participant observation showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has based their program on developmentally appropriate methods. The program addresses the needs of the juvenile population by adapting treatment sessions to meet the significant and current issues that impact the lives of the adolescents. Treatment services such as this provide participants with the opportunity and encouragement that is necessary to successfully complete the program.

Strategy #9. Gender – Appropriate Services – Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.

Findings from the focus groups and staff interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has recognized the need for gender-appropriate services and has therefore has attempted to accommodate these differences. Inpatient treatment sessions are used to accommodate specific gender issues when necessary. By tailoring their approaches to gender-specific issues, the team is able to develop appropriate relationships with each participant and deliver treatment that is beneficial to both males and females.

Strategy #10. Cultural Competence – Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.

Findings from participant observation, team interviews, and the focus group showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has demonstrated cultural competence by sending team members to training conferences where cultural sensitivity issues are taught. Team members also make efforts to learn about the participant's background and interact with family members in order to gain an understanding of the youth's culture. These actions reflect the team's awareness of the importance of cultural issues, help strengthen relationships between the participant and the staff, and effectively address the needs of both the participant and the family.

Strategy #11. Focus on Strengths – Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.

Findings from participant observation, the focus group, and staff/team interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team focuses upon the individual strengths of each participant and their family throughout the duration of the Drug Court program. As part of the Adolescent Intake Assessment, the Drug Court team includes a "Strengths Assessment" questionnaire, which helps the participant to concentrate on his/her accomplishments and successes. This approach begins the participant's program with a strength-based perspective and prepares the participant to accept a more responsible and positive role in the community. This strengths-based approach also aids in creating bonds between the participant and his/her family and helps the family provide support to the child during the program.

Strategy #12. Family Engagement – Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.

Findings from the focus group, participant observation, and staff/team interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program recognizes the importance of family roles and support in the treatment of the juvenile participant. Members of the Drug Court team understand that family members can influence the juvenile to make important choices throughout the duration of the program. Therefore, the team makes every effort to engage the family in all components of the program. In the Christian County program, parents or other family members are required to attend and participate in court sessions. Participants and their families also are required to attend family treatment sessions. The Drug Court team also uses the initial assessment and other tools to evaluate the role of each family member and the dynamics between the family and the participant. By involving the participant's family members during the Drug Court program, the participant's progress is enhanced and the family's relationship is strengthened.

Strategy #13. Educational Linkages – Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls in and attends an educational program that is appropriate to his or her needs.

Findings from the focus group and staff/team interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has a strong relationship with the local school system, including guidance counselors and teachers. This enables them to closely monitor participants' attendance, grades, and teacher assessments. Because team members stay in contact with school officials, they can quickly address any issues that might arise in order to best meet the needs of participants. All participants are required to attend school or to work toward a GED. The Drug Court also works with community resources such as day treatment, continuing education, and workforce development in order to help participants with continuing educational and vocational needs.

Strategy #14. Drug Testing – Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.

Findings from the focus group and staff/team interviews revealed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program administers frequent, random drug tests to all participants throughout the duration of the program. As documented in the program handbook, participants must test negative for eight weeks before they become eligible to graduate. Participants must undergo drug testing a minimum of three times per week in Phase I, two times per week in Phase II, and once per week in Phase III. Additional tests are administered if team members think it is necessary. The first drug test is given after the Adolescent Intake Assessment is completed.

Strategy #15. Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions – Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.

Findings from the staff/team interviews and participant observation showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has a system of graduated sanctions that applies to all participants. These sanctions include community service, decreased curfew, detention and placement into residential treatment. Although they have specific sanctions in place, the Drug Court may adjust the sanction in order to better address the participant's noncompliant act. Incentives are also given based on clean drug tests, exceptional school performance, group leadership and positive attitudes. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court awards gift certificates, a plaque for the participant of the month, and milestone coins in order to recognize the participants' successes. Sanctions and incentives are consistent and fair and are given immediately in order to help participants understand that their actions lead to consequent reactions.

Strategy #16. Confidentiality – Establish a confidentiality policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.

Findings from the staff/team interviews and focus group showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team members have designed policies and procedures to protect participants and their family members while in the Drug Court program. Participant files are kept in a locked storage area and computer records are protected by passwords. Court sessions and staffing meetings are closed in order to ensure the maximum amount of privacy for participants and their family members.

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Need for Juvenile Drug Courts

Between 1989 and 1998, national juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations increased 86% and arrests for curfew and loitering violations increased 178% (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs, OJJDP, 1999). An estimated 2.6 million juvenile arrests were made in 1998, which accounted for 18% of all arrests in 1998 (OJJDP, 1999). In addition, juveniles were involved in 13% of all drug abuse violation arrests in 1998 (OJJDP, 1999). In the majority of sites reporting on drug use among juvenile arrestees, more than half of the juvenile males tested positive for at least one drug (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring System, 1999).

Substance use for adolescents is in many ways normative behavior (Kaminer and Tarter, 1999). By age 18, almost 80% of youths in the U.S. report having drunk alcohol, 64% report smoking cigarettes, and 50% report using marijuana at least once (Johnston et al., 1996). For adolescents, drug and alcohol abuse reduces motivation, interferes with cognitive processes, contributes to mood disorders, has implications for immediate and long-term physical health, and increases the risk of accidental injury or death (Hawkins, Catalano, & Miller, 1992; Paglia & Room, 1998). In addition, early substance use and abuse is associated with a variety of other risk factors including early and frequent sexual intercourse (which is associated with STDs, HIV, and unwanted pregnancies) as well as delinquency and later criminal activity (Ball et al., 1982; Dembo et al, 1991; Elliott, Huizinga, & Menard, 1989; Jessor & Jessor, 1977; Speckhart & Anglin, 1985; Watters et al., 1985). For society at large, adolescent substance abuse is related to a high health care cost, educational failure, mental health services use, drug and alcohol treatment, and juvenile crime.

Treatment for juvenile delinquency, however, has not been overwhelmingly successful. For example, Lipsey (1992) conducted a comprehensive meta-analysis of juvenile delinquency treatment and found that overall there was a modest treatment effect; although there were certain circumstances in which treatment was much more effective than in others, the reasons for the increased effectiveness were not readily apparent. In response to juvenile delinquency and substance abuse, and in order to promote better outcomes with juvenile populations, more than 140 juvenile drug courts have been established across the nation since 1995, and more than 125 are currently being planned (Cooper, 1999; 2001). However, juvenile drug court models are still being established, and it is not clear what works best in a juvenile drug court. Because the field of juvenile justice is in a constant state of flux, evaluation efforts clearly are needed to provide “snapshots” of established juvenile drug courts. **Therefore, the focus of the current report will be to provide a detailed description of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court and to describe preliminary outcomes of participants seen in this program. This report will meet these 2 objectives:**

- 1. Provide an in-depth description of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court. This will include summarizing program goals, components, structure, and procedures and processes.**
- 2. Describe program outcomes, summarizing the impact of the Drug Court on the lives of its participants. Measures will include treatment retention, arrests and re-incarceration, drug use, employment, sanctions, and phase promotions.**

Drug Courts in Kentucky

The motto for Kentucky Drug Court is “A chance...a change.” Kentucky’s Drug Court is aligned with nearly 1000 adult and juvenile Drug Courts in operation across the United States. The mission of Kentucky’s Drug Court is to create a criminal justice environment that stops illicit drug use and related criminal activity and promotes recovery and rehabilitation.

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Juvenile Drug Court in Kentucky is grounded in the 16 Strategies described in the publication Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2003). These strategies were developed by the Drug Court Standards Committee to ensure that a core set of standards were defined for all Drug Court programs (Table 1) to follow. The Strategies were adapted from the 10 Key Components of adult drug courts (Drug Court Programs Office, 1997) in order to better fulfill the special needs and situations addressed by juvenile drug courts.

Typically, In exchange for successful completion of the Drug Court program, the Judge may choose to dismiss the participant's original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer a lesser penalty, or use a combination of these rewards. Drug Court transforms the roles of both criminal justice practitioners and alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment providers as they collaborate with each other in an attempt to help the adolescent offender learn to live drug-free and crime-free lives. A balance is struck between the need for intensive supervision (ensuring public safety and offender accountability) and focused treatment on the many treatment needs evident in adolescents who abuse drugs. Family relationships, substance abuse intervention, relapse prevention, anger management, stress management, education, employment, life skills, structure, responsibility, accountability, and impulse control are only a few of the psychosocial areas that Juvenile Drug Court must address in order to have a favorable impact on the juvenile offender and the community as a whole. The Judge is the central figure in the Drug Court, which is a team effort that focuses upon participant sobriety and accountability as its primary goals. As the central authority figure for the team, the Judge acts as "parent," advocate, and instructor. This fundamentally shifts the relationship between the Judge and the participant from being an "adversary" and punisher, to being a "mentor" and guide.

Table 1. Juvenile Drug Court Strategies

1. Collaborative Planning – Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated and systemic approach to working with youth and their families.
2. Teamwork – Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, nonadversarial work team.
3. Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria – Define a target population and eligibility criteria that are aligned with the program’s goals and objectives.
4. Judicial Involvement and Supervision – Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation – Establish a system for program monitoring and evaluation to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.
6. Community Partnerships – Build partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.
7. Comprehensive Treatment Planning – Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.
8. Developmentally Appropriate Services – Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of adolescents.
9. Gender-Appropriate Services – Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.
10. Cultural Competence – Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.
11. Focus on Strengths – Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.
12. Family Engagement – Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.
13. Educational Linkages – Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls in and attends an educational program that is appropriate to his or her needs.
14. Drug Testing – Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.
15. Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions – Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.
16. Confidentiality – Establish a confidentiality policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.

Source: Bureau of Justice Assistance (2003, March). Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice.

History and Development of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court

In Christian County, during Fiscal Year 1999, a total of 125 adolescents in Christian County were arrested for drug and alcohol offenses: 64 were arrested for narcotic drug offenses; 43 were arrested for driving under the influence; 6 were arrested for liquor laws, and 12 were arrested for drunkenness. (Crime in Kentucky – Commonwealth of Kentucky 1999 Crime Report). Therefore, the Christian Juvenile Drug Court program was developed and received a planning grant in April of 2000. The Drug Court Judge, with representatives from Department of Juvenile Justice and other local officials, initiated the planning grant application. Community linkages were established with the local schools, the health department, and local employers in order to prepare an effective Drug Court program.

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court differs from adult drug courts in Kentucky in its focus upon the special needs of drug-involved adolescent offenders. The program must address the special needs of this group, which include: (1) the negative influences of peers, gangs, and family members; (2) the needs of the family, especially families with substance abuse problems; (3) confidentiality requirements for juvenile proceedings while obtaining information necessary to address the adolescent's problems and progress; and (4) motivation for juvenile offenders to change, especially given their sense of invulnerability and lack of maturity.

PROCESS EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Interviews

A set of interview instruments that collected both quantitative and qualitative data from key drug court stakeholders was used during this process evaluation (see Logan, Lewis, Leukefeld, & Minton, 2000). These interviews were conducted with judges, drug court staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and treatment providers. The Drug Court Judge Interview

assessed the Judge's level of prior experience with the target population; the Judge's perceived potential impact of the drug court on the community and judicial system; the program eligibility decision making process; the program's overall capacity; the consequences for failing the program; the services determined to be necessary; the planned level of supervision; and the types of graduated sanctions and rewards used. The Drug Court Coordinator Interview is a comprehensive questionnaire that was completed with a drug court coordinator and detailed the specific operational characteristics of the drug court program. Specific sections highlighted the target population, program goals, program organization and function (e.g., recruitment, capacity, assessment, and services), supervision practices, staff characteristics, and community organization involvement. The Drug Court Staff Interview gathered detailed data about the roles and treatment orientation of the drug court staff members. The Prosecution and Defense Interviews focused on perceived benefits, level of understanding of what the program includes, level of commitment to help make it work, and perceived problems it might cause. The External Treatment Interview helped to pinpoint what types of treatment services were offered and through what avenues.

Court Observation

Two researchers from the University of Kentucky observed one Christian County Juvenile Drug Court session, providing two unique observations of this court's operations. Data were coded using a protocol developed by Satel (1998) during a national study of 15 adult Drug Court programs. This allowed for a systematic description of the interactional (exchanges between the judge, court staff, and participants) and environmental (physical characteristics of the setting) characteristics of the drug court session. The method involved coding the session on 17 specific variables (see Appendix A) that focused upon the interaction between the Drug Court

judge and participants (including eye contact, physical proximity of the judge to the participant, who the judge first addressed, whether each participant remained present in the court room throughout the entire session, and time spent with each participant) and the court room setting (including seating arrangements and ambient noise level). In addition, Drug Court staff were asked to rate how typical the observed session was for regular court operations. The staff who were questioned reported that this observed session was typical of court operations. A copy of the observation coding sheet is included in Appendix A.

Monthly AOC Statistical Reports

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court makes monthly reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). These reports summarize the number of candidates referred, the number assessed, the number of individual drug screens, number of candidates eligible, and the number transferred from probation. Also reported are the number of participants receiving phase promotions or demotions; the number of court sessions; the number of participants identified as using an illicit substance based on urine drug screens; the number of individual sessions; the number of drug sessions; the number of family/support sessions; the number of participants referred to outside agencies; employment and educational status of participants; number of employment and housing verifications, amount paid toward court obligations; the number of sanctions, the number of participants rearrested for new charges; the number of terminations; and the total number of active participants in the preceding month. For the current evaluation, the monthly statistics reports covering July 2001 through June 2002 were reviewed and coded.

Program Documentation

Several sources of program documentation also were reviewed for the process evaluation. These included copies of the grant application submitted by the court for funding, handbooks

provided by the Drug Court to its participants to outline the design and expectations of the program, and the policy and procedure manuals for the court. In addition to these, quarterly administrative reports made from the program to the Administrative Office of the Courts were reviewed. Each report summarized the quarterly activities of the Drug Court, including trainings attended by drug court staff.

Focus Group and Logic Model

A focus groups also was conducted during the process evaluation with Drug Court team members. The goal of the focus group session was to develop a comprehensive description of program elements for the Drug Court using a “logic model” approach. A preformatted logic flow model (adapted from Harrell, 1996) was completed during a researcher-led focus group to help Drug Court staff to articulate specific goals, outputs, and activities for their Drug Court, with special emphasis placed upon identifying links between specific program activities and their influence on the stated goals and objectives.

FINDINGS: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

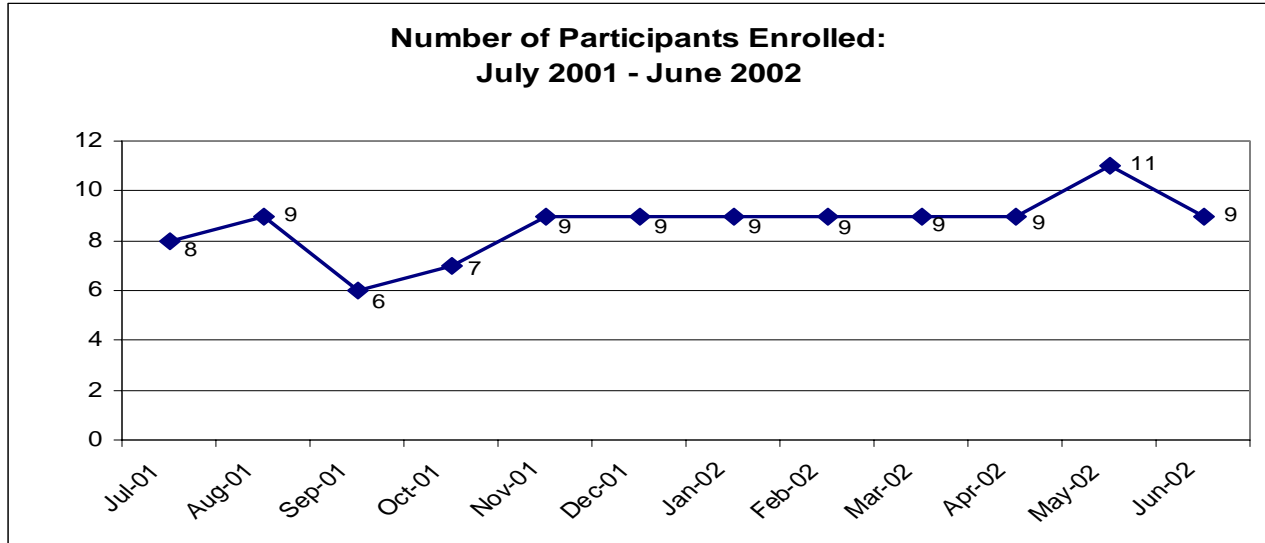
Drug Court Program Structure and Processes

Location. The Christian County Drug Court program serves residents in the Christian County district. Christian County is located in the Pennyryle region of the state. The population estimate for the county in 2000 was 72,265. In 2000, approximately 28.3 percent of the population was under 18 years old, with 70% Caucasian, 24% African American, 4.8% Hispanic, and .9% Asian. In 1999, a total of 125 adolescents in Christian County were arrested for drug and alcohol offenses: 64 were arrested for narcotic drug offenses; 43 were arrested for driving under the influence; 6 were arrested for liquor laws, and 12 were arrested for drunkenness.

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Capacity and caseflow. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court has treatment slots available for 10 to 20 participants. The court averaged about 9 active participants per month during the time period this evaluation examined, ranging from a low of 6 participants to a high of 11 participants (see Figure 1).

Figure 1



Drug Court staff and team members. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court currently has two full time employees, including one treatment coordinator and one case specialist. The treatment coordinator's primary responsibilities are program administration and case management, while the case specialist assists with case management. Both of the staff members can manage between and 10-20 cases. The Drug Court Judge volunteers his time to the program, and works approximately three hours per week on Drug Court cases. The team also includes a representative of the Department of Juvenile Justice, the county attorney, a public defender, a police officer, a county clerk, a treatment provider, and a representative of day treatment, all of whom also donate their time to the team to make the program a success.

Referral, eligibility, and admission procedures. Participants are referred into the program by the prosecutor, defense counsel, and judge directly informing the defendants of the

option, by brochures inviting arrestees to apply, and by word of mouth between inmates. When potential participants are referred into the program, either the treatment coordinator or the case specialist meets with them to begin to prepare reports about their eligibility to participate in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The Adolescent Intake Assessment (AIA) is used to assess eligibility of potential participants. The AIA is administered in the Drug Court office. The assessment is done within one week of the judge's referral of a potential participant.

To be eligible for the Christian County Drug Court program, youths must be assessed on certain inclusionary and exclusionary criteria. Participants must be under the age of 18, have committed a public offense, have substance abuse issues, have transportation readily available, and be a resident of Christian County. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court will not accept a youth who has committed a violent or sexual offense, status offenders, or a youth that will turn 18 before the time frame that is needed in order to complete the program. Once a youth and their legal guardian(s) are determined eligible for the Drug Court, they are required to sign a written agreement of participation.

Phase structure. Like all Kentucky Drug Courts, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court is divided into 3 distinct phases, each with a separate set of goals, procedures, and strategies for reaching these goals. A general overview of these 3 phases (including drug court sessions, treatment activity, and supervision level) is presented in Table 2. The total minimum expected duration of the participants' stay in Drug Court is 9 months, but many participants take much longer to finish the program.

Generally, as participants move through the three phases, the number of court sessions that they are required to attend decreases, as does their level of supervision. Participants in Phase I are required to attend court sessions once a week. Participants in Phase II are required to

attend court sessions once every two weeks, and participants in Phase III are required to attend court sessions once every three weeks.

The number of support groups that participants are required to attend also is dependent upon their treatment phase. During phase I, participants attend at least six treatment sessions per week, including five group sessions and one individual session. As the participant progresses through the program, the number of required treatment sessions is reduced. In addition to treatment and urine supervision, other program expectations include participation in a 12-step group like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and/or Narcotics Anonymous (NA), school attendance or efforts to obtain a GED.

Program goals. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court has many goals and objectives for their program. The team's hopes are to stop illegal activity and substance use, improve educational levels, and decrease recidivism. Court dockets, criminal histories, school records, and urine analyses are used in order to measure if the goal is being met by the Drug Court program. Other goals of the Drug Court program are presented in Table 3.

Graduation. The Judge has the discretion to determine who should graduate or be terminated from the Drug Court, and his decisions are based on input from the rest of the team. Participants are recommended for graduation from Drug Court after they have been in the program for at least 9 months, have actively participated in the program, successfully completed all three program phases, maintained stable living conditions, provided clean urine screens for eight weeks, and are current on their fee payments.

Table 2. Phase Structure

Phase I:

(Can be completed in two (2) months)

1. Attendance at all assigned individual, group, and family counseling sessions.
2. Provide all assigned drug screens, which reflect no use of drugs or alcohol.
3. Attend weekly Court sessions.
4. Attend community support groups as required by the treatment program, the Juvenile Drug Court staff and, or the Juvenile Drug Court Judge.
5. Maintain Court approved employment, vocational training, and or regular school attendance.
6. Comply with any necessary referrals made by the treatment program, the Juvenile Drug Court staff and, or the Juvenile Drug Court Judge.
7. Remain Drug and Alcohol free.
8. Curfew will be 8 p.m. Weeknights and 10 p.m. weekends (Friday and Saturday)

Phase II:

(Can be completed in four (4) months)

1. To attend one Juvenile Drug Court session every four weeks.
2. To provide all assigned drug screens each week, which reflect no use of drugs or alcohol.
3. To attend community support meetings as required by treatment program, the Juvenile Drug Court staff and, or the Juvenile Drug Court Judge
4. To attend all assigned group, family and individual counseling sessions.
5. To develop a payment plan and begin making payments to satisfy any Court related financial obligations, such as restitution, public defender fees, treatment fees, etc.
6. To maintain Court-approved employment, training and or education.
7. To comply with any necessary referrals, by treatment program, the Juvenile Drug Court staff and, or the Juvenile Drug Court Judge.
8. Remain Drug and Alcohol free.
9. Curfew will be 9 p.m. on weeknights and 11:00 p.m. on weekends (Friday and Saturday).

Phase III:

(Can be completed in three (3) months)

1. To attend on Juvenile Drug Court session every four weeks.
2. To provide all assigned drug screens each week, which reflect no use of drugs or alcohol.
3. To attend community support groups as required by treatment program, the Juvenile Drug Court staff and, or the Juvenile Drug Court Judge.
4. To attend all assigned group, family and individual counseling sessions.
5. To continue making payments to satisfy Court related financial obligations such as restitution, public defender fees, treatment fees, etc.
6. To maintain Court-approved employment, vocational training and or school attendance.
7. To obtain/maintain an approved mentor or NA/AA sponsor and maintain regular contact.
8. Remain Drug and Alcohol free.
9. Curfew will be 10 p.m. weeknights and 11:30 p.m. on weekends (Friday and Saturday).

Table 3. Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Goals

1. Provide treatment and other services to appropriate nonviolent, substance-abusing juvenile offenders and their families.
2. Provide a judicially supervised program to appropriate nonviolent, substance-abusing juvenile offenders and their families.
3. Divert appropriate juvenile offenders from the traditional juvenile court delinquency proceedings.
4. Promote public safety by contributing to a reduction in recidivism among participating youth.
5. Reduce reliance upon secure detention while promoting intense supervision of participating youth.

Graduation ceremonies occur once every 3 months. Family and friends of participants are welcomed if they are invited. However, as a rule, to maintain confidentiality of the participants, court sessions and graduation ceremonies are closed to the general public. The graduations are held in the courtroom, and during the ceremony each participant is given a plaque, and a t-shirt. After the ceremony, everyone is invited to a reception in honor of the graduates. Once a participant graduates, their charges are dismissed.

Program rules and termination from Drug Court. All new drug court participants and their families are given a Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Participant Handbook at program entry that details the operations of the program, policies and procedures, rules, and program expectations, including a description of what participants can expect from the program. Rules are viewed as important by the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Team for many reasons. They impose a life structure that may be unfamiliar to participants, help to ensure the safety of the staff and participants, provide a model for participants of the larger social order, and help the program to operate consistently, efficiently, and fairly. Table 4 presents the statement of the rules participants must follow when they agree to enter Drug Court. Failure to follow rules

results in the imposition of a disciplinary sanction, and also can result in the expulsion from the program. When participants are repeatedly noncompliant with the program rules,

Table 4. Participant Rules

1. Appropriate clothing is expected at all times. You must wear a shirt or blouse, pants or skirt, and shoes. Sunglasses will not be worn inside the Juvenile Drug Court Office or Court. Clothing bearing drug or alcohol related themes, or promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use is not allowed. No gang colors or gang clothing shall be worn at any time. No gum chewing in court. No use of tobacco.
2. You and your family must attend all scheduled counseling sessions, urine tests, educational sessions, and Court sessions, unless you obtain prior approval. You must arrive on time and not leave until the meeting is over. If you are late, you may not be allowed to attend the session and may be considered absent. Arrangements must be made to make up missed groups before your next court appearance.
3. The following actions will not be tolerated:
 - a. Violence or threats of any kind
 - b. Use and or possession of drugs and or alcohol
 - c. Belligerent behavior
 - d. Possession of any type of weapon
 - e. Inappropriate sexual behavior or harassment
4. Your friends, including children, cannot loiter on the premises. If they are providing transportation, they should simply drop you off and pick you up at the end of the session. Your immediate family (mother, father, guardian or the person with whom you are living) will be required to attend all Court sessions and family counseling sessions.
5. You may not carry cellular phones or beepers/pagers to court or group sessions. You may not carry cellular phones or beepers/pagers unless approved by the Drug Court Staff.
6. All participants must notify staff of any arrest (within 24 hours) or court obligations.
7. The program shall comply with the Kentucky law regarding the reporting of cases of abuse or neglect of minors. The program shall also comply with Kentucky law regarding the reporting of cases of abuse and neglect of adults. Federal law and regulations do not protect any information about suspected child abuse or neglect from being reported under state law to appropriate state or local authorities.
8. You will be expected to maintain appropriate behavior at all times during permitted to show support and encouragement to fellow participants by applause, but only during appropriate times. Your behavior is indicative of the progress you and your fellow participants are making toward your recovery.
9. All participants will be given curfew times. The Juvenile Drug Court Judge or staff must approve the only exceptions. If you work later than these hours, you have a 30-minute leeway to get home.
10. Any violation of Drug Court rules will cause the issuance of a Detention Order or a summons for a Drug Court appearance at the next available Drug Court.

they may be terminated from the program. If terminated, a participant returns to Juvenile Court for disposition of their case and their sentence is re-evaluated. Violence, mistreatment of any of the Drug Court team member, consistently positive drug screens, and the receipt of any new felony charges all prompt termination.

Drug Court Program Elements

Drug Courts include a general set of components designed to engage participants in treatment while supervising their progress. Central to this effort is the coordination of these program components, including Drug Court sessions, treatment, supervision, and community resources. Through a team effort mobilizing these features of the Drug Court program, the judge, Drug Court staff, and treatment and service providers can directly address the central goals of the program (described above, Table 3).

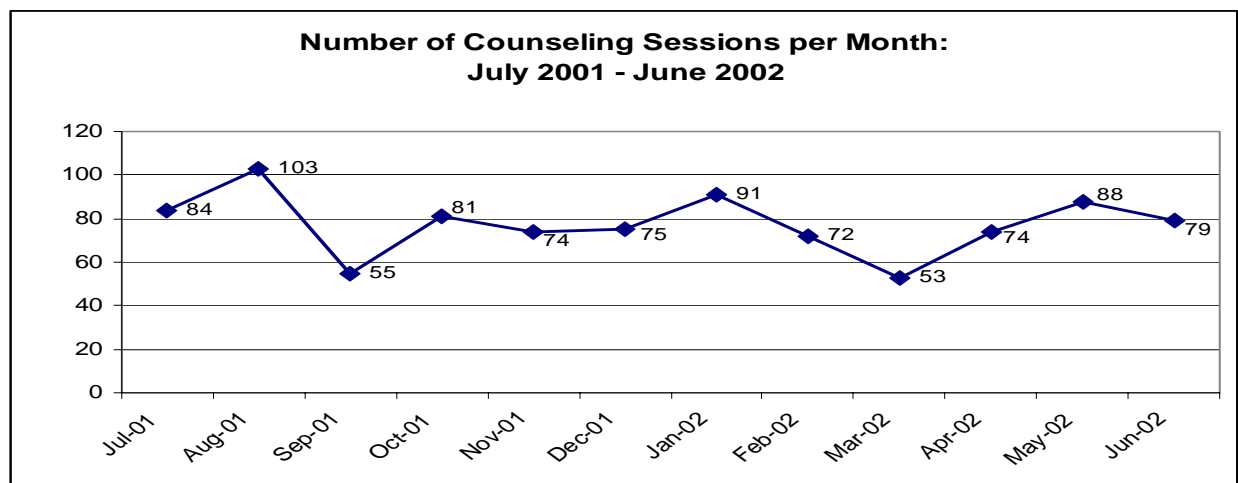
Court sessions. Court sessions are held every Thursday at 1:00 pm at the Christian County Court House. Prior to all sessions the staff meets in a conference room in the courthouse for “staffing”. Staffing lasts for approximately one hour during which the progress of each participant who will appear in court is discussed. The Judge reviews the progress notes of each participant with the other team members. The staff members present at the researcher-observed staffing included a representative from Christian County Day Treatment, a Hopkinsville police officer, a Department of Juvenile Justice representative, and a Pennyroyal Regional Mental Health/Mental Retardation Board member. Also present at staffing was the court liaison, clinical director and therapist from Cumberland Hall, two public defenders, the county attorney, a juvenile clerk, a court-designated worker, Case Specialist, and the Drug Court Administrator. These team members assisted the judge in his decisions on which sanction and rewards will be given to each participant. The judge reviewed each participant’s case and then additional input

was given from the team. It was evident that the team and Judge worked together closely to make recommendations for particular participant cases, including when a participant would be ready to be promoted to the next phase, if and what type of sanction or reward should be used, identification of unmet service needs, and clinical and professional opinions regarding strategies that could be used to help the participant to progress in their treatment goals.

The following is a summary of the observations made by researchers from the University of Kentucky to give a detailed picture of how a Drug Court session is organized and conducted. The ambient noise level was low throughout the drug court session. Participants and their family members entered the courtroom as a group and in no particular order. Each participant remained throughout the entire Drug Court session. The Judge addressed the case specialist first, who stood at a podium in front of the Judge. The case specialist gave a review of each participant's weekly progress. The participant and their family member stood at a podium in front of the Judge. The podium was located fourteen feet from the judge's bench. The judge remained seated on the bench throughout the session. The Treatment Representative and one Public Defender sat at the defense table. The participants sat in two rows of benches that were located in the back of the courtroom. A microphone was present on the podium where the participant stood, but it was not turned on. The Judge addressed family members when necessary. The Judge sustained eye contact with the participants and family members throughout each session. During the observed court session, there were no participants who were being reviewed on short notice. During this status hearing, researchers witnessed a total of four participant sessions. The average individual session length was eight minutes. Individual session lengths ranged in length from one minute to 21 minutes. The judge and participants addressed the gallery frequently throughout the Drug Court session.

Treatment. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has integrated alcohol and other drug treatment services with juvenile justice case processing in order to help juveniles to recover from their drug problems and to cease criminal behavior. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program uses Pennyroyal Regional Mental Health/Mental Retardation Board, Inc. as its primary treatment provider, in addition to other treatment providers such as Cumberland Hall, Sivley House, and Alliance Counseling. The main philosophy and focus of the treatment is to address abstinence, personal responsibility, and accountability. Treatment also teaches participants how to resolve conflict, interact with peers, and how to say “no” to drugs. The Drug Court places a strong emphasis on recovery and lifestyle change. Data from the Monthly Statistics Reports suggest that Juvenile Drug Court participants are receiving fairly intensive treatment services. Analyses combining group, individual, and family/support sessions (summarized in Figure 2) showed that the fewest number (\underline{n} =53) of treatment sessions were provided in March of 2002, and the greatest number of sessions (\underline{n} =103) were given in August of 2001.

Figure 2.



Supervision. Treatment and supervision are two of the essential features of the Juvenile Drug Court. The combination of these two aspects of Drug Court intervention has been repeatedly shown to be effective for offenders in criminal justice-based treatment (Nurco, Hanlon, Bateman, & Kinlock, 1995). Observation of a court session by researchers from the University of Kentucky revealed that the Judge paid careful attention to urine drug test results, and reviewed these with participants during the court session. Data from the Monthly Statistical Reports showed that the juveniles in the Drug Court are well supervised. Urine screen supervision was frequently used, with a total of 2758 urines collected (an average of 229 urine screens were conducted each month). As shown in Figure 3, the fewest ($\underline{n} = 103$) urine screens were collected in June of 2002, and the most ($\underline{n} = 366$) urine samples were collected in February 2002. While urine screen analyses provide useful information regarding overall supervision level, it should be noted that urine-screening requirements decrease as participants are promoted to higher phases, and the participants' phases were not considered in these analyses. Therefore, the number of urine screens per participant described in the graphs below underestimates the intensity of supervision provided.

Figure 3.

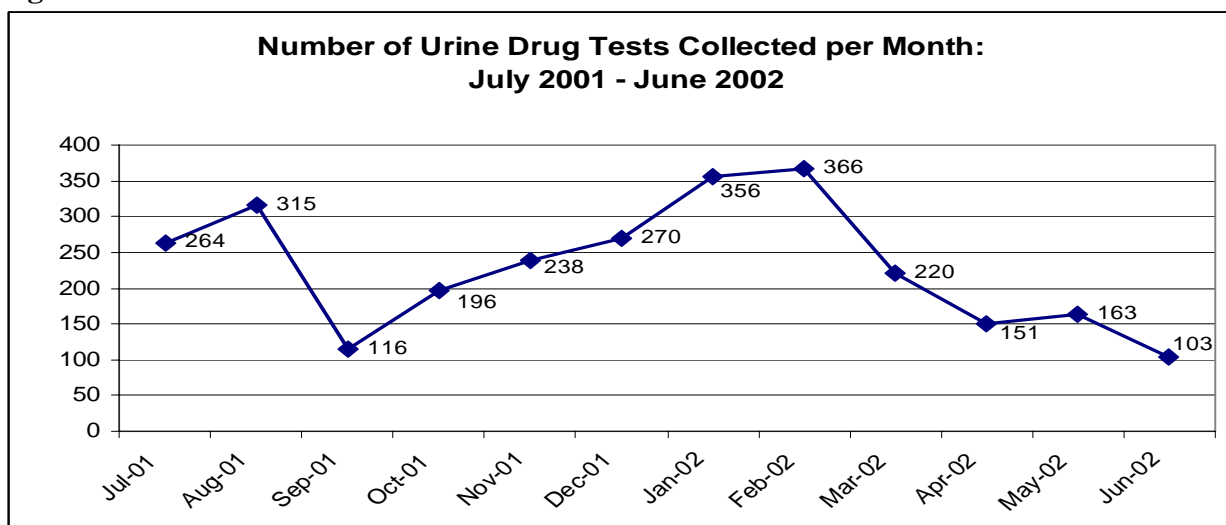
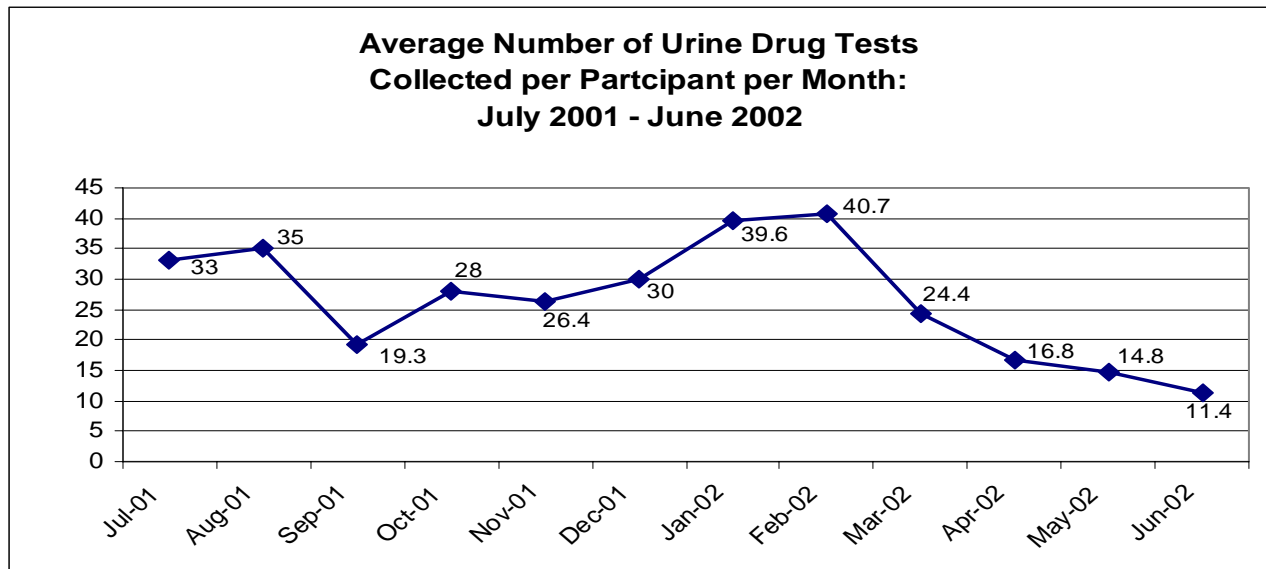


Figure 4.

Sanctions and rewards. The Drug Court program has a sanction algorithm that dictates which sanctions will be given for each rules infraction (see Table 5). However, there are situations in which the program deviates from the fixed sanctions to best meet the needs of each participant's situation. The entire Drug Court team has input into sanctions; however, the Judge makes the final determination regarding which sanction will be used. Dirty urine screens, missing school, not completing community service, not completing assignments, being late to Drug Court sessions, and noncompliance with the Drug Court program all may prompt the use of a sanction. Sanctions used include detention (which varies depending on the severity of the act), phase demotion, additional drug screens, additional treatment, placement in residential treatment, and termination from the program.

Participants gain rewards by being compliant with the program rules and showing significant progress in treatment goals. Rewards are given for clean drug screens, standard compliance with Drug Court rules, phase promotions, school awards, and extra initiative.

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Implementation Evaluation

Rewards that are used to acknowledge participants' progress include, phase promotion, "participant of the month," gift certificates, and praise and encouragement from the Team.

Table 5. Christian County Drug Court Sanctions List

1.	1 st Missed/Positive Screen: 2 nd Missed/Positive Screen: 3 rd Missed/Positive Screen: 4 or More Missed/Positive Screens: Note: Positive Screens may substitute Detention for Treatment	4-8 hours community service Detention: one weekend Detention: one week Detention: 10 Days
2.	1 st Missed Group/AA/NA/Meeting: 2 nd Missed Group/AA/NA Meeting: 3 or more missed Group/AA/NA/Meetings:	Make up with another group or 5 hours community service. Make up with another group AND 5-10 hours community service. Detention
3.	Failure to Complete assignments:	Extra assignments and reading. 2 Hours community service
Note: If assignments are not turned in during court, participant has until 4:00 pm (on the same day) to bring them to the Drug Court Office		
4.	Failure to complete ordered community service:	Additional hours of community service or detention with work release to perform community service.
5.	Failure to obtain or remain in Drug Court approved housing:	Cooperate with Drug Court staff in locating approved housing. Temporary living arrangements at an approved shelter or halfway house.
6.	Loss of job	Given 1-2 weeks to find a new job. Community service until a job is found. If in Phase II or III, possible demotion of phase.
7.	Turning self in late to jail:	Extra days in custody.
8.	New offenses while in Drug Court:	Judge review on a case-by-case basis.
9.	Failure to appear for court or jail:	Warrant Issued.
10.	Tampering with Urine Screen:	Possible Termination
11.	Absconding from Drug Court:	Warrant Issued

Community service. Community service is used mostly as a sanction for the participants in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court. Those participants who do not attend school year round must either have a job or they will be required to do community service hours. Participants may be required to do community service at the Animal Shelter, Pride Incorporated, Day Treatment, or the school system. Community service encourages the youth to be productive members in their society.

Family involvement. Family involvement is an integral part of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Family members must cooperate with the Drug Court program rules. If they choose not to cooperate, the Drug Court Judge may sanction them also. Parental sanctions range from fines to confinement in the Christian County Detention Center.

Logic model of the drug court program. The logic model is one method for describing a program in a standardized manner (Harrell, 1996). The logic model of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court (see Figure 6) was completed during a research-led focus group with team members. The *target population* for this program is drug-involved youth between the ages of 15 and 17 years old. The staff members also indicated that they do not accept adolescents with violent offenses or status offenders. The Drug Court does not accept juveniles with a history of drug trafficking. The staff indicated that a potential participant must have transportation in order to meet all program requirements.

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court has access to a variety of *available resources* whose roles are to provide positive interventions for drug-involved youths and their families. The Drug Court uses Pennyroyal Behavioral Health as their primary source for substance abuse and mental health treatment. Additional resources are also available to the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court. Staff stated that the Day Treatment Program, Alliance Center and

Cumberland Hall are important resources for the program. Staff also referred to the public school system as a resource, and additionally identified JAP, which is a program in which participants receive assistance in obtaining GEDs and employment, as another community resource. The Drug Court also uses Hopkinsville Community College as a vocational training resource. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court receives donations from community businesses. Wal-Mart donates gift cards, and various community members donate tickets to shows or games. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is used as a referral resource.

Staff identified many *participant background characteristics* of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court participants that can have a significant impact on their success in the program. The majority of the target population has experienced minimal supervision in the home and neglect. Staff members said, “One usually will not find a strong support system within the family.” Team members indicated that a history of substance abuse is common within the families of the Drug Court participants. Staffs identified the participants as having a negative attitude at the beginning of the program. Staff said that “the majority of our participants are street smart, because most juveniles can’t get into the drug world without an appropriate level of street smarts.” Staff said that the participants in the program come from various socioeconomic levels and they have “all types of kids in the program, but if anything, the Drug Court lacks participants from the upper middle class.” Gang activity was indicated as a participant background characteristic which “causes friction between participants from different gangs who have to associate with one another in order to meet all the Drug Court requirements.”

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court utilizes a variety of *treatment activities*. Random drug and alcohol testing is one of the most important treatment activities provided by the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court. The participants are also required to regularly appear

in court in front of the Judge. Other treatment activities include various types of therapies including group, individual, and family counseling. The participants additionally are required to attend AA/NA meetings, and participate in physical activities. The Drug Court plans mandatory recreational activities for the participants that include “fun things like bowling, pizza parties, and haunted houses; the more recreational activities we do with the participants, the better they seem to do in the program.” The Drug Court presents tokens of sobriety to each participant as a treatment activity. Staff reported, “the coins don’t work for everyone, but for some of the participants, they are of huge importance.”

The *initial goals* of the Christian County Drug Court are for the participants to develop into “well- rounded, productive individuals.” The team hopes to “introduce the participants to new cultural things in order to help them develop into well-rounded individuals.” The Drug Court team reported that they enlist the participants’ assistance with the planning of activities in order to teach them responsibility and time management, and “to aid them in their journey to become productive members in the community.” The team also identified that having no school absences, curfew violations, or general violation of program rules were initial goals for each participant. The team hopes to “teach the kids that every action has a consequence, either positive or negative.”

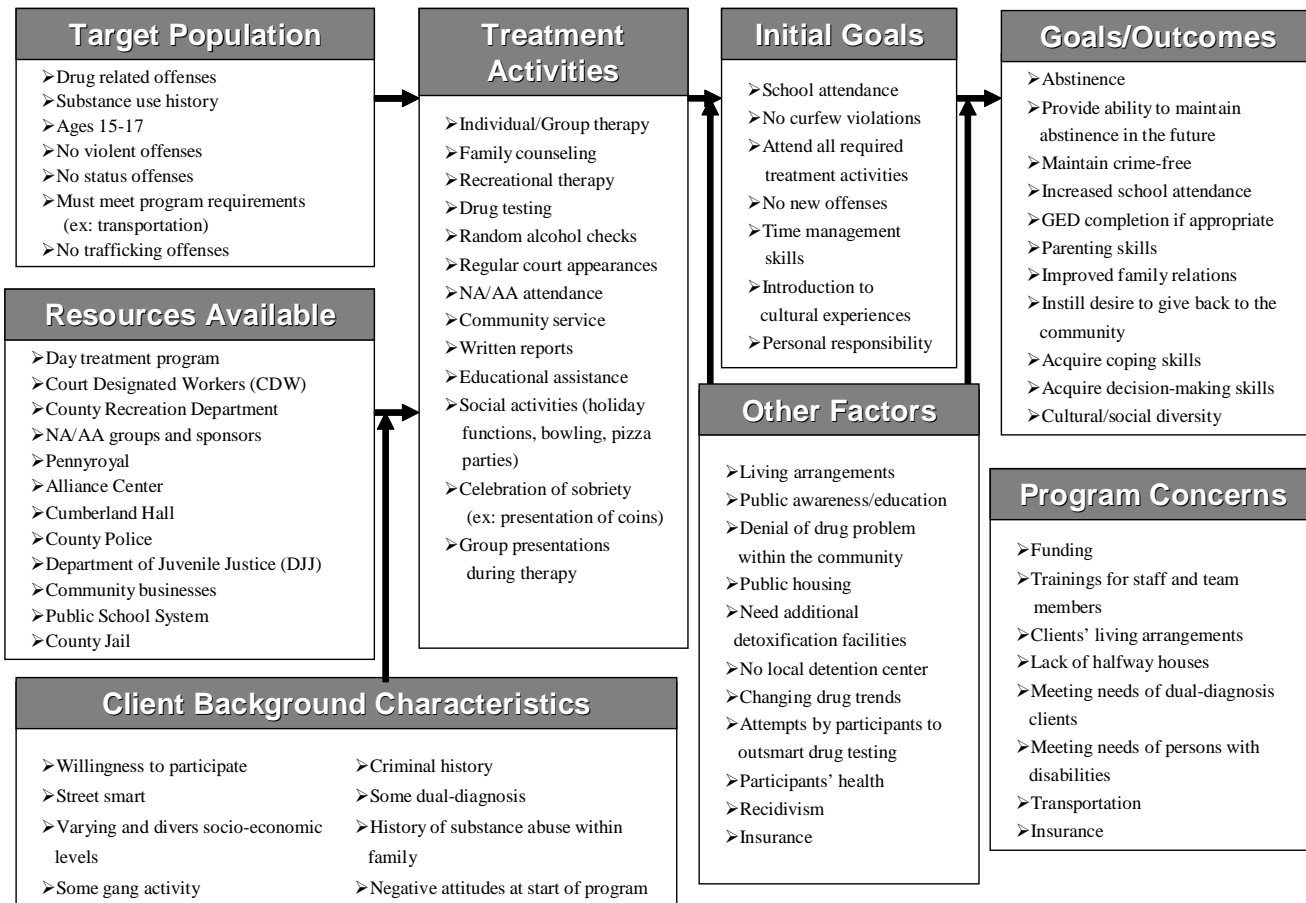
The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team described *other factors* that influence their Juvenile Drug Court. Staff reported that there is a lack of support from the family members of the participants, and that the living arrangements for the participants are not always positive. The team members identified a need to build stronger ties between the Drug Court and the public, and to educate the community about the program in a positive manner. The staff expressed concern for the denial of the drug problems within the community and said that “the

community tries to push the drug problem on the back burner; they know it is happening, but they don't want to admit it." The team also indicated that the relatively new drug trends such as OxyContin and ecstasy caused the team to be concerned.

The *long-term outcomes or overall objectives* of the Christian County Drug Court are for the participants to remain drug free, and for them to acquire the ability to maintain abstinence in the future. The team teaches the participants "how it feels to do good deeds, and how living life without drugs and alcohol feels." The Drug Court also hopes to increase school attendance, improve family relationships, and provide parenting skills for the participants with children. The team wishes to build coping and decision making skills among the participants, and reduce recidivism rates of youthful offenders in the community.

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team expressed different concerns they had with their program. One of these *program concerns* is funding in order to keep the Drug Court in operation. The team also hopes to increase their ability to meet the needs of potential participants with dual-diagnosis issues and disabilities. The staff said, "Sometimes it is hard to meet all the needs of the participants' mental health and substance abuse problems, and additional resources are needed." The staff members believed that additional training for the Drug Court team members is important. The Drug Court also hopes to eliminate the transportation problem within the community because "many good potential participants are being excluded from participation in the program due to the lack of public transportation within the community."

Figure 6. Logic Model:



FINDINGS: DURING PROGRAM IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

The primary emphasis of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court is to help its participants to learn to live drug-free and crime-free lives. Participants are held accountable for their maladaptive behaviors through therapeutic sanctions and are rewarded for their successes. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program positively influenced the participants involved during the time frame of this evaluation period to remain in school and to stay drug-free and offense-free. Program compliance rates were assessed by examining how often participants received sanctions. Noncompliance implies poor participant performance, but should not be viewed as a negative outcome for the program. Because Drug Court programs operate as

intensive behavior modification programs, sanctions may be viewed as a necessary feature of the program that promotes participant accountability and the development of responsible behavior.

When participants are noncompliant, the imposition of sanctions provides needed corrections.

Retention in Drug Court

Keeping participants in the Drug Court program is an essential and crucial element. If the participant is removed from the program, they usually do not continue to receive treatment, which reduces the likelihood of successful long-term outcomes. Nevertheless, not everyone may have indefinitely long stays in the program. Some participants need to be terminated to restore a therapeutic atmosphere and to provide an example to the remaining participants that they will be held accountable for criminal and deviant behavior. During the time frame covered by the current report (July 2001-June 2002), five of the participants were terminated from the program. Three of these participants were terminated due to failure to comply, one absconded, and one was terminated due to receipt of a new offense. During the time frame covered by this report, one participant successfully graduated from the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. A large body of research in the substance abuse treatment field and in the Drug Court literature suggests that program graduates perform significantly better than those who do not finish a program.

Recidivism

Recidivism (often defined as rearrests) is a straightforward outcome indicator used to judge the effectiveness of criminal justice-based programs. Therefore, one of the primary performance measures for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court is the number of participants who are arrested for new crimes while they are under the program's supervision. Only five of these participants were rearrested for a new crime during the time frame of this

report. One of the participants was rearrested for trafficking cocaine, a felony. A second participant was arrested for felony fleeing and evading charges. A third was arrested for a violent EPO, a fourth for theft by unlawful taking, and the fifth participant to be charged was arrested for alcohol intoxication and alcohol possession by a minor.

Drug Use

Many of the resources of Christian County Juvenile Drug Court are focused on reducing the use of alcohol and other illicit drugs among its participants. Drug Court staff provide recovery-oriented therapy to their participants and employ frequent urine testing for illicit drugs to determine participant progress and to identify relapses. During the time frame of this evaluation period, there were 31 positive urine screens out of a total of 2758 urine analyses conducted. Of the 31 positive urine screens, five were positive for cocaine, three for methamphetamines, twelve for marijuana, three for benzodiazepines, four for alcohol, two for other drugs, and two were identified as diluted, so the drugs masked by the dilution were unknown.

Education

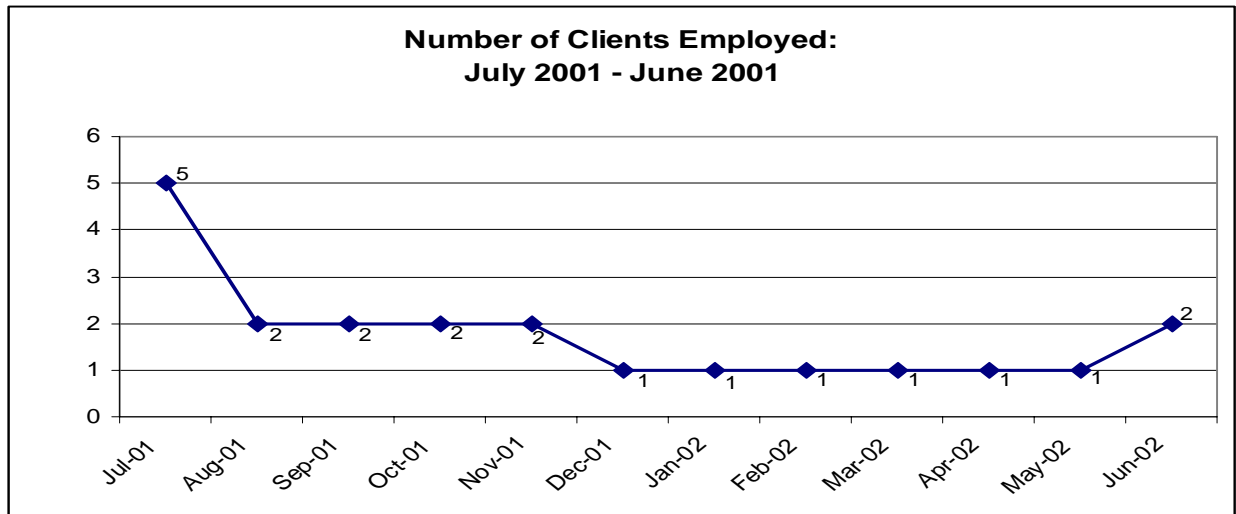
Education is strongly emphasized by the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court. The majority of its participants remained in school during the program (including alternative schools like Day Treatment that combine education and therapy). During the observed court status hearing, the Drug Court Judge paid careful attention to how the participants were doing in school. By paying special attention to the educational achievement of its participants, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court strives to achieve reduction of the high school dropout rate among its participants, which has been shown to be positively and linearly related to employment earnings. Efforts to reduce the high-school dropout rate, therefore, are worthwhile

both for the individual participant and for the community.

Employment

Employment problems are a reliable predictor of early dropout from treatment among adults in community-based substance abuse treatment programs. Because the Christian County program is for juveniles, however, employment is only required of participants who are not full-time students. Figure 6 summarizes participant employment data from the Monthly Statistical Reports.

Figure 6.



Sanctions

Review of program records indicated that sanctions were generally used in a consistent manner following specific behavioral problems. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program does have a fixed sanction algorithm, but this algorithm is used flexibly and sanctions are individualized when necessary. A detailed list of sanctions can be seen in Table 5.

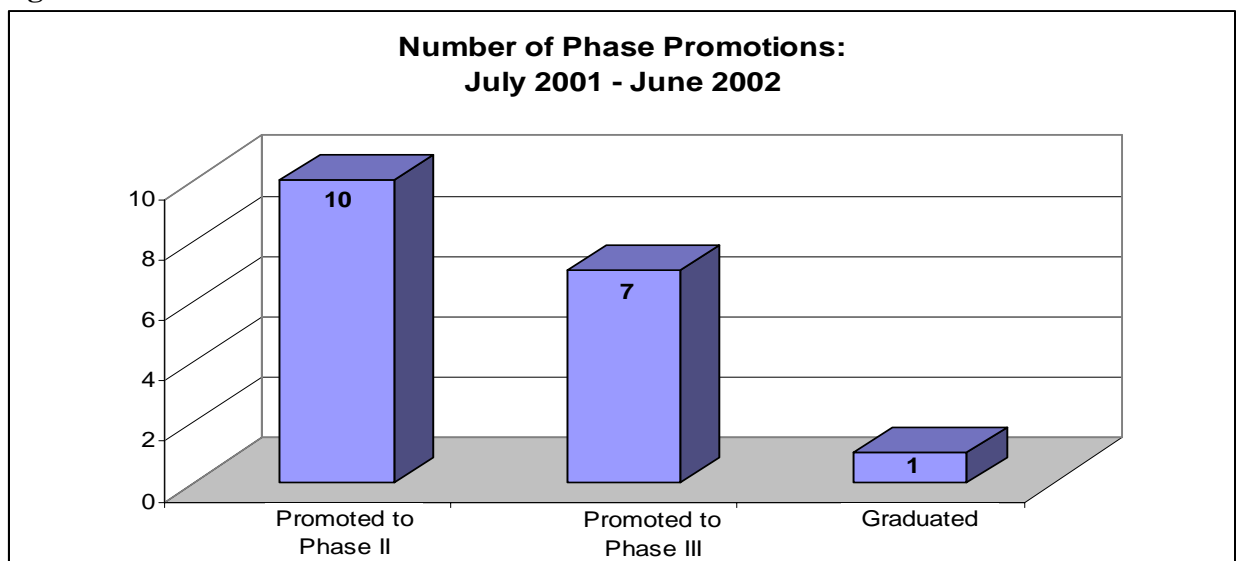
Detention was the most commonly received sanction. Twenty-five of the total sanctions given were detention time varying in length. Community service was given as a sanction sixteen

times, one participant was sent into inpatient treatment, one participant was demoted to a lower phase, and one was terminated from the program.

Phase Promotions

A promotion to a higher phase indicates that the participant is performing successfully in the program. Examining the number of phase promotions, therefore, provides a valuable during-treatment performance measure. As shown in Figure 5, analysis of data from the monthly statistics showed that 18 phase promotions were given during the time frame covered by the report. Ten promotions to Phase II, and seven promotions to Phase III were given. One participant graduated from the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program during the evaluation period.

Figure 7.



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court is firmly grounded in the 16 Key Strategies that define effective juvenile Drug Courts nationwide. It provides recovery-oriented services and intensive supervision to juveniles with drug abuse problems. A dedicated team of professionals representing key stakeholders in the problems created by juvenile substance abuse work together

closely to help these individuals to begin their recovery, improve social functioning, and cease criminal activity. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court has matured beyond its planning phase, and is transitioning into a fully implemented, cohesive program. In conclusion, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court is in full compliance with the 16 Key Strategies outlined for implementing effective Drug Court programs, specifically:

Strategy #1. Collaborative Planning – Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated and systemic approach to working with youth and their families.

Findings from staff/team interviews and from participant observation showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team members have formed a cohesive unit that involved community-based stakeholders during the planning and implementation stages of the Drug Court process. The Drug Court planning team includes representatives from various local agencies who work together to develop policies and procedures regarding Drug Court operations. The planning team and the policies that are written ensure program collaboration, participant accountability, and effective program evaluation.

Strategy #2. Teamwork – Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, non-adversarial work team.

Findings from the focus group and from participant observation showed that members of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team work efficiently together and collaborate when making decisions about participants. Observations made and interviews conducted by University of Kentucky researchers indicated that prosecutors, defense attorneys, and treatment professionals on the team communicate well with one another, therefore maximizing the efficacy of the program. The opinions of all team members are equally respected, thus ensuring the promotion of public safety and protection of each participant's rights.

Strategy #3. Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria – Define a target population and eligibility criteria that are aligned with the program’s goals and objectives.

Findings from the focus group and from staff/team interviews revealed that the target population and eligibility criteria established by the Drug Court team are appropriate and well-defined. Team members have utilized data regarding various aspects of the community as well as assessed local resources in order to correctly identify juveniles who might benefit from the program. Eligibility criteria have been established and incorporated into a written set of guidelines so that each potential participant may be effectively screened. In this way, the Drug Court team is able to consistently target and screen possible candidates and in turn monitor the ever-changing needs of the participants, the Drug Court process, and community stakeholders.

Strategy #4. Judicial Involvement and Supervision – Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.

Findings from the participant observation and subsequent interviews showed that judicial involvement and supervision is highly regarded in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. During court sessions the Judge relates well to participants and takes an obvious interest in their lives. Between court sessions the Judge stays in contact with staff and team members to remain updated on participants’ progress. The judge facilitates a well-balanced atmosphere of legal supervision and personal relationships with the participants.

Strategy #5. Monitoring and Evaluation – Establish a system for program monitoring and evaluation to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.

Findings from staff/team interviews and from the focus group indicated that the Christian County Juvenile Drug court team effectively monitors and evaluates the program. The Drug Court team has contracted with the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research at the University of Kentucky to perform an independent, external evaluation.

Strategy #6. Community Partnerships – Build partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.

Findings from the staff/team interviews and from the focus group showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has forged partnerships with the community in order to offer as many support services as possible. Recreational opportunities, educational programs, and community service work are integrated to provide a comprehensive range of activities for all participants. The team has successfully enlisted support from various community resources such as the Animal Shelter, the school system, and Pride, Inc.

Strategy #7. Comprehensive Treatment Planning – Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.

Findings from the participant observation, focus group, and staff interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has met the diverse needs of participants and their families. By using tools such as the initial assessment (Addiction Severity Index) and Individualized Program Plan (IPP) staff members are able to address the special needs of each participant and their family. Each participant's IPP is reviewed several times throughout the course of the program and plans are modified if necessary to best meet the needs of the participant. The effectiveness of the program is increased by this individualized treatment-based approach.

Strategy #8. Developmentally Appropriate Services – Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of adolescents.

Findings from the focus group, staff interviews, and participant observation showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has based their program on developmentally appropriate methods. The program caters to the needs of the juvenile population by adapting treatment sessions to meet the significant and current issues that impact the lives of the

adolescents. Services such as this provide participants with the opportunity and encouragement that is necessary to successfully complete the program.

Strategy #9. Gender – Appropriate Services – Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.

Findings from the focus groups and staff interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has recognized the need for gender-appropriate services and has thereby initiated certain program characteristics to accommodate these differences. Inpatient treatment sessions are used to accommodate specific gender issues when necessary. By tailoring their approaches to gender-specific issues, the team is able to develop appropriate relationships with each participant and deliver treatment that is beneficial to both males and females.

Strategy #10. Cultural Competence – Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.

Findings from the participant observation, team interviews, and the focus group showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has demonstrated cultural competence by sending team members to training conferences where cultural issues are taught. Team members also make efforts to learn about the participant's background and interact with family members in order to gain an understanding of the youth's culture. These actions reflect the team's awareness of the importance of cultural issues, help strengthen relationships between the participant and the staff, and effectively address the needs of both the participant and the family.

Strategy #11. Focus on Strengths – Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.

Findings from the participant observation, focus group, and staff/team interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team focuses upon the individual strengths of each participant and their family throughout the duration of the Drug Court program. As part of the

initial assessment (AIA), the Drug Court team includes a “Strengths Assessment” questionnaire, which helps the participant to concentrate on his/her accomplishments and successes. This approach begins the participant’s program with a strength-based perspective and prepares the participant to accept a more responsible role in the community. This strengths-based approach also aids in creating bonds between the participant and his/her family and helps the family provide support to the child during the program.

Strategy #12. Family Engagement – Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.

Findings from the focus group, participant observation, and staff/team interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program recognizes the importance of family roles and support in the treatment of the juvenile participant. Members of the Drug Court team understand that family members can influence the juvenile to make important choices throughout the duration of the program. Therefore, the team makes every effort to engage the family in all components of the program. In the Christian County program, parents or other family members are required to attend and participate in court sessions. Participants and their family are also required to attend family treatment sessions. The Drug Court team also uses the initial assessment and other tools to evaluate the role of each family member and the dynamics between the family and the participant. By involving the participant’s family members during the Drug Court program, the participant’s progress is enhanced and the family’s relationship is strengthened.

Strategy #13. Educational Linkages – Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls in and attends an educational program that is appropriate to his or her needs.

Findings from the focus group and staff/team interviews showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has a strong relationship with the local school system,

including guidance counselors and teachers. This enables them to closely monitor the participants' attendance, grades, and teacher assessments. Because team members stay in contact with school officials, they can quickly address any issues that might arise in order to best meet the needs of the participant. All participants are required to attend school or to work toward a GED. The Drug Court also works with community resources such as day treatment, continuing education, and workforce development in order to help participants with continuing educational and vocational needs.

Strategy #14. Drug Testing – Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.

Findings from the focus group and staff/team interviews revealed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program administers frequent, random drug tests to all participants throughout the duration of the program. Participants must test negative for eight weeks before they become eligible to graduate. Participants must undergo drug testing a minimum of three times per week in Phase I, two times per week in Phase II, and once per week in Phase III. Additional tests are administered if team members think it is necessary. The first drug test is given after the initial assessment (Addiction Severity Index) is completed. Observing all urine drops and testing for evidence of tampering maintain the integrity of the drug tests.

Strategy #15. Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions – Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.

Findings from the staff/team interviews and participant observation showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has one system for graduated sanctions that applies to all participants. These sanctions include community service, decreased curfew, detention and placement into residential treatment. Although they have specific sanctions in place, the Drug Court may adjust the sanction in order to better address the participant's

noncompliant act. Incentives are also given based on clean drug tests, exceptional school performance, group leadership and positive attitudes. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court awards gift certificates, a plaque for the participant of the month, and milestone coins in order to recognize the participants' successes. Sanctions and incentives are consistent and fair and are given immediately in order to help the participant understand that his or her actions lead to consequent reactions.

Strategy #16. Confidentiality – Establish a confidentiality policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.

Findings from the staff/team interviews and focus group showed that the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team members have designed policies and procedures to protect participants and their family members while in the Drug Court program. Participant files are kept in a locked storage area and computer records are protected by passwords. Court sessions and staffing meetings are closed in order to ensure the maximum amount of privacy for participants and their family members.

Appendix A

Participant Observation Coding Sheet

Participant Observation Coding Sheet

Drug Court Code Number: _____ Date of Observation _____ Coder initials: _____

Ambient noise/distraction	1 2 3 4 5 low medium high
Participant miked	Yes / No
Closeness to bench	_____ Feet
Participant next to lawyer	Yes / No
Participant next to a family member	Yes / No
Who is first addressed	Participant / Personnel / Family member
Judge addresses family member	Yes / No
Level of eye contact	Sustained / Intermittent / None
Physical contact	Yes / No Specify _____ (e.g. graduation)
Remain throughout session	Yes / No Specify _____ (e.g. new participants only)
Arranged seating	Yes / No Specify _____ (e.g. jury box)
Order to cases	Yes / No Specify _____ (e.g. new participants first)
Fixed sanction algorithm	Yes / No
Review on short notice	Yes / No
Time spent with participant	_____ min.
Frequency of courtroom sessions	Weekly / Biweekly / Monthly / Bimonthly
Judge addresses gallery	Yes / No
Participant addresses gallery	Yes / No
Outside contact	Yes / No

Adapted from: Satel, S. L. (1998). Observational study of courtroom dynamics in selected drug courts. National Drug Institute Review, I(1), 43-72.

Appendix B

Participant Record Coding Sheet

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Implementation Evaluation

Drug Court Name: _____

Record Number: _____

Drug Court Data Coding Sheet

1. Program Entry Date _____ Program Exit Date _____

2. Date Record Searched _____ Coder: _____

3. Did the participant:

0 - Graduate?

1 - Terminate? (If yes, what was the highest phase of treatment that the participant completed? _____)

2 - Still active

4. Which of the following describes the reason for completion/termination?

0- successfully completed tx

1- transferred to another tx agency

2- incarcerated due to new charge

3- incarcerated due to status revoke

4- discharge due to non-compliance with rules

5- absconded

6 - voluntarily dropped out/quit

7 - still in treatment

8 - turned 18

5. Gender: 0- Male 1- Female

6. Ethnic Background:

0- White

2- Hispanic

1- Black

3- Asian

7. Date of birth (m/d/y) _____

8. Medical status:

0- no medical problems

1- Pregnant (any time in program)

2- Other (specify) _____

9. Current education:

0 - In school

2 - Vocation training

1 - High School graduate

3 - GED

10. Special education needs:

0 - no

1 - yes

LEGEND	
99	Not applicable, legitimately missing
88	Missing, not answered
77	Drug court participant didn't know

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11. Employment while in drug court

- 0- Full-time employed
- 1- Part-time employed
- 2- Unemployed

12. Living status (during the year before entry into Juvenile Drug Court)

- 0- With parents
- 1- With other relatives
- 2- Foster care
- 3- Other (specify) _____

13. Children: 0 – No 1 - Yes

14. # of children _____

15.

	Ever Used	Age at first use	# days used in past 30 days on the street
Nicotine	0-no 1-yes		
Alcohol	0-no 1-yes		
Marijuana	0-no 1-yes		
Opioids	0-no 1-yes		
Cocaine/Crack	0-no 1-yes		
Amphetamines	0-no 1-yes		
Other specify: _____	0-no 1-yes		

16. Ever received substance abuse treatment? 0- No 1- Yes

17. Substance abuse treatment history:

	# of times
Residential	
Outpatient	
AA/NA	
Not Found	

18. Ever received mental health treatment? 0- No 1- Yes

19. Mental health treatment history:

	# of times
Residential	
Outpatient	

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20. Prescription psychotropic medication history:

Medication Name	Previously prescribed	Currently prescribed	# of Mgs/day
	0-no 1-yes	0-no 1-yes	
	0-no 1-yes	0-no 1-yes	
	0-no 1-yes	0-no 1-yes	

21. Ever promoted? 0-no 1-yes

22. Ever demoted? 0-no 1-yes

23. Current phase _____

From Phase:	To Phase:	Demotion – 0 Promotion - 1	Enter Date MM/DD/YY
		0 1	
		0 1	
		0 1	
		0 1	
		0 1	
		0 1	

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Urinalysis Results

of times participant missed urine drops: _____

of times participant had an abnormally diluted urine: _____

of negative urine drops: _____ (total negative urine screens)

month/year	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__
marijuana												
crack/cocaine												
opiates/heroin												
sedatives/ barbiturates												
amphetamines/ methamphetamines												
other												

of times was the participant's urinalysis positive for more than 1 illegal drug? _____

Date of first positive urine: _____ Type of drug: _____

Date of last positive urine: _____ Type of drug: _____

Sanctions

Type of Sanction?	Ever Received? No – 0 Yes -1	Date of First Sanction:	# of times received:
Any sanctions:	0 1		
Community service:	0 1		
Incarceration:	0 1		
# of days total incarceration:			
Increased Treatments:	0 1		
Home incarceration:	0 1		
Curfew restriction:	0 1		
Book report:	0 1		
Other (specify):	0 1		

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24. History of violence:

0- no violence indicated

1- violent act(s)

2- threats of violence

25. Original charges (date)

26. New charges while in drug court - 1 - Yes 0 – No Date _____

Level: Felony _____ Misdemeanor _____

Type of offense / Charges(specify):

27. Number of time incarcerated/detention: _____

28. School attendance:

Highest or current grade _____

School period: from date _____ to date _____

Total # of school days _____

of unexcused absences _____

of excused absences _____

of days suspended _____

of ISAP _____

Appendix C
Consent and Script for the Focus Group

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Implementation Evaluation
Consent to Participate in a Research Study

EVALUATION OF THE DRUG COURT

INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION

Dr. Matthew Hiller (859) 257-9062

Dr. TK Logan (859) 257-8248

Danielle Malluche (859) 257-6052

Barbara Patterson (859) 257-6052

WHY AM I BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?

You are being invited to take part in a research study of the Drug Court because you are a staff member of this program. If you volunteer to take part in this study, you will be one of several people to do so.

WHO IS DOING THE STUDY?

The people in charge of this study are Drs. Matthew Hiller and TK Logan of the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research at the University of Kentucky. There may be other people on the research team assisting at different times during the study.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

The purpose of the study is to provide an in-depth description of the Drug Court Program using a logic model format that will document program goals (short and long-term), resources, and target population.

WHERE IS THE STUDY GOING TO TAKE PLACE AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

The research will be conducted at the Drug Court program offices. You will be asked to come to and participate in a focus group during which you will be asked to describe this program. The total amount of time you will be asked to volunteer for this study will be approximately one hour, the duration of the focus group.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

You will be asked to participate in a small focus group whose purpose will be to complete a “logic” model of how the Drug Court operates. This focus group will take about 1 hour to complete. You will be asked to provide your impressions about various aspects of the program, including goals, resources, and target population. You will be asked to list a program goal (the expected result), then another, and then another until all goals have been represented on the logic diagram which will be drawn by a researcher/focus group facilitator. Next, outputs (short-term progress indicators) will be identified, followed by activities (specific actions taken and services provided to effect both outputs and goals). Other model components will represent the target population, resources (e.g., materials and personnel available), and antecedent/background (i.e., common participant risk factors) and mediator variables (such as additional services to which a participant might have access to but are not necessarily controlled by the reentry

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court like welfare assistance). Finally, you will be asked to suggest logical causal links that will indicate how each part of the model or each component interlinks with each other.

Everyone on staff at the Drug Court will be asked to participate in the study, and participation is completely voluntary. You should feel free to choose not to participate in this study.

ARE THERE REASONS WHY I SHOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

There are no specific reasons that you would be excluded from voluntarily participating in this study.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS?

Please note that even though we will not identify you by name or title or function in our report or in notes we take during the study, your responses and input during the focus group will be made in the presence of other focus group members, some of whom might be your supervisor or boss. Also, because only a small number of people are participating, we cannot guarantee that your answers will be confidential. It may be that someone who knows you participated in the group will be able to determine or guess that you provided particular pieces of information summarized in the final report. We cannot guarantee that you will not be reprimanded or punished in some other way by your employer because of the information that you share with us. We suggest that if you feel that something you wish to say may be offensive to someone in the group or could possibly provoke a negative reaction from your employer that you refrain from sharing that information. Moreover, some people find participating in a group to be an unpleasant experience, especially when they talk about their job, themselves, or their program. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer or provide any information that you do not wish to provide. You can stop or quit the focus group at any time.

WILL I BENEFIT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

There is no guarantee that you will get any benefit from taking part in this study. However, your participation in this study may benefit the program because the report might help other's to better understand how the Drug Court works.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY?

If you decide to take part in the study, it should be because you really want to volunteer. You will not lose any benefits or rights you would normally have if you choose not to volunteer. You can stop at any time during the study and still keep the benefits and rights you had before volunteering.

IF I DON'T WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY, ARE THERE OTHER CHOICES?

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If you do not want to be in the study, there are no other choices except not to take part in the study.

WHAT WILL IT COST ME TO PARTICIPATE?

There is no charge to you for participating in the study.

WHO WILL SEE THE INFORMATION THAT I GIVE?

We will keep private all research records to the greatest possible extent. Your information will be combined with information from other people taking part in the study. When we write about the study to share it with other researchers, we will write about the combined information we have gathered, but because only a small number of people will be participating in the focus groups, we cannot guarantee that the data will be confidential. It is possible that someone who reads the data summarized in the final report will be able to determine or guess who said what. You will not be identified by name or position or function in any write-ups or notes. You, however, should be reminded that you will be sharing information in front of other focus group participants, and we cannot guarantee that they will keep your statements during the focus group private or confidential. Nor can we guarantee that others will not react in a negative manner to information that you share with us.

You also should know, however, that there are some circumstances in which we may have to show your information to other people. For example, the law may require us to show your information to the proper authorities if it is suspected that you have abused a child, or if you pose a danger to yourself or to someone else. In addition, someone at the University of Kentucky may look at or copy records that could identify you.

CAN MY TAKING PART IN THE STUDY END EARLY?

If you decide to take part in the study you still have the right to decide at any time that you no longer want to continue. None of the researchers will think badly of you or treat you differently if you decide not to take part in the study. The individuals conducting the study may need to withdraw you from the study. This may occur if you are not able to follow the directions they give you, or if they find that you're being in the study is more risk than benefit to you

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET HURT OR SICK DURING THE STUDY?

Even though it is very unlikely that you will get hurt or become ill because of this study, if you believe you are hurt or if you get sick because of something that is done during the study, you should call Dr. Matthew Hiller at 895-257-9062 immediately. It is important for you to understand that the University of Kentucky will not pay for the cost of any care or treatment that might be necessary because you get hurt or sick while taking part in this study. That cost will be your responsibility. Also, the University of Kentucky will not pay for any wages you may lose if you are harmed by this study.

WILL I RECEIVE ANY REWARDS FOR TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

You will not receive any rewards or payment for taking part in the study.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Before you decide whether to accept this invitation to take part in the study, please ask any questions that might come to mind now. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact Dr. Matthew Hiller at 895-257-9062. If you have any questions about your rights as a volunteer in this research, contact the staff in the Office of Research Integrity at the University of Kentucky at 859-257-3138. We will give you a copy of this consent form to take with you.

Signature of person agreeing to take part in the study

Date

Printed name of person taking part in the study

Name of person providing information to the subject

Signature of Investigator

PROTOCOL FOR DRUG COURT FOCUS GROUPS

THE FOCUS GROUP: BRIEF INTRODUCTION

While the facilitator is making the introduction, the note takers should begin to take notes on what is said during the focus groups. They should not sit at the main table, but place themselves unobtrusively to the side. The facilitator will keep notes by writing the responses on the logic model displayed on the easel note pad. The facilitator will encourage but not force consensus on the answers from the group.

THE INTRODUCTION

- “Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in our focus group. This is an important part of our study, and we really appreciate your giving up your time in order to help us out.”
- “Today we are here to discuss the goals, outcomes, and activities of the drug court program. What has been planned, how it is going, and what contributes to the way that this program operates.”
- “With this information we will be completing a logic map of the program operations, including desired outcomes, target population, resources, program activities, with the goal of making a ‘snapshot’ of how the program works.”
- “You are the people who know your program the best, and we encourage you to talk about it as much as you wish. We will be taking notes today, but we will not be keeping track of who said what. We also will not write things in the final report that you do not wish us to put in there.”
- “We think it is important that we all agree that we should feel free to describe the program in our own words and to not criticize what others say. What we really want to develop is a picture of how the drug court operates, and to try to capture this in your words.”
- O.K., any questions before we begin?

TOPIC ONE: **TARGET POPULATION**

“Let’s start with target population for your drug court.”

- Who are the participants targeted by your program?
- What characteristics do you look for when considering if this person is an appropriate candidate for this program?

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- Are there any particular criteria they need to meet in order to be eligible? What are they? Are there things that you use as exclusionary criteria? In other words, are there types of participants you would consider to be inappropriate for the program?
- Which characteristics/criteria are the ones that your program can best address?

**** Facilitator should “star” the characteristics named as those best addressed by the program***

- Does everybody agree? Is there anything anyone would like to add?

TOPIC TWO: GOALS OF THE DRUG COURT

“O.K., lets talk about the goals of the program. When we say goal, we mean a desired state of affairs that outlines the ultimate purpose of the program. This is the end product toward which your efforts are directed. Programs can, and frequently do, have several goals. To get things started, you may want to think of what it was that you stated in your mission statement as a source for your goals.”

- Who would like to start off identifying some of the goals that this drug court is supposed to achieve?
- Does everyone agree? Does anyone have different or additional goals in mind?
- Which of those is the most important goal? Does everyone agree?

**** Facilitator should “star” the most important goals.***

TOPIC THREE: PROGRAM OUTPUTS

“Let’s next talk about the program outputs. By this what we mean is the immediate or short-term things you hope to accomplish to help realize your long-term goals. Generally speaking, these are the daily objectives you hope to accomplish with your participants”

- Who would like to start off telling us some of the specific objectives expect the participant and/or program to achieve on a daily basis?
- Does everyone agree? Who has another idea?
- Which outputs are critical/most critical in meeting the goal you just listed?
- How does each output relate to which goal?

**** Facilitator should “star” the most important ones***

- Does everybody agree? Is there anything you would like to add?

TOPIC FOUR:
PROGRAM INPUTS/ACTIVITIES

“We will now move to discuss program services and other activities. Meaning, those services and activities that are expected to produce results that will meet the stated outputs and goals. In other words, what do you do with the participants on a daily basis?”

- Can anyone start us off by telling us what are the activities and/or services that this program provides?
- Does everyone agree? Who has another idea to put on the model?
- Which output/goal is this activity supposed to meet? How?
- Which activities/services have the biggest impact on the program outputs and goals?

** Facilitator should “star” the most important ones*

- Does everybody agree? Is there anything you would like to add?

TOPIC FIVE:
RESOURCES

“Let’s next talk about program resources. What resources are available, both internal and external, that helps you to provide services? For example, are volunteer groups available?”

- How is the program funded?
- Is there any type of support you receive from the community? Other programs/service agencies?
- Do you have volunteer staff/mentors?
- Which resources are most essential to your meeting short-term and long-term program the goals?

** Facilitator should “star” the most important ones*

- Does everybody agree? Is there anything you would like to add?

TOPIC SIX:
ANTECEDENTS / BACKGROUND FACTORS

“Now we would like to make a list of all the participant characteristics that you think may influence the outcomes and/or use of program services. These can pertain to program characteristics like program organization, training or level of experience of staff, as well as community and/or target population, factors such as neighborhood, family, peer-group, and/or any personal or demographic characteristics of participants.”

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- Does anyone want to start by telling us about a particular experience that they have had of something that might not have been planned that really impacted how program services deliver of operate? (Probe: What about publicity about the program?)
- What community characteristics might influence program outcomes? Does everyone agree?
- What staff background characteristics might influence program outcomes? Does everyone agree? What are essential characteristics that staff should possess?
- What participant background characteristics might influence program outcomes? Does everyone agree?
- Which one of these do you think has the strongest influence on what types or quality of services get delivered? That is community, staff, or participant characterization.

**** Facilitator should “star” the most important ones***

- Does everybody agree? Is there anything else you would like to add?

TOPIC SEVEN: MEDIATING EVENTS

“We will now talk about other types of events or participants that you think could influence how or whether your program accomplishes its goals. These could include, for example, utilization of services outside the program, social norms and attitudes, social factors such as peer groups, living arrangements, family function etc.”

- Do participants have ready access to other types of services in the community that can help them achieve their goals and support them?
- What characteristics of the participant will have a strong impact on whether they will realize these goals and the outputs of the program? Does everyone agree?
- What about particular attitudes or social norms? Does everyone agree?
- What about peer group? Family?
- Which of these do you think exert the strongest influence on the outputs and goals of the program?

**** Facilitator should “star” the most important ones***

- Does everyone agree? Is there anything else you would like to add?

“Does anyone have anything else that they wish to add to the program model? Have we missed anything? Have we put anything down on the map wrong? Thank you very much for your time. This has been an interesting and engaging exercise and we hope you enjoyed it. Have a good day.”